The Bureau of Indian Standards has laid down standards for the STB in August, 2002. Steps have been taken to ensure the quality of the STBs and sample testing. Government has rationalised the duty on import of STBs and its components, in order to make it affordable.

Status of Cable TV Networks

93. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the cable television networks, DTH operations and Conditional Access System;

(b) whether Government have been able to arrive at an agreement with the people concerned on the areas mentioned above; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Cable Television Network and Conditional Access System (CAS) are governed by the provisions of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, amended from time to time. DTH operations are governed by the DTH Guidelines. These are available on this Ministry's website http://www.mib.nic.in. After monitoring the preparedness of the stakeholders to introduce addressability and after extensive discussions with the various stakeholders namely Broadcasters, Multi System Operators, Cable Operator, Consumer Groups etc., it has been decided to roll out CAS in a zonal-phased manner in the metros of Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata and at one go in the entire Chennai Metropolitan Area w.e.f. 01.9.2003. Notification has been issued on 10th July, 2003, which is available on this Ministry's Website. The intervening period will be utilized to step up preparedness for smooth roll out of CAS and for educating the subscribers.

Four applications for providing DTH Service have been received and are under process.